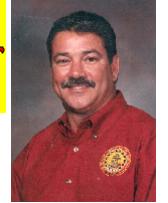
# the Chitimacha Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2002

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NEWSLETTER

#### NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Greetings,

It has certainly been a long month since I last wrote to you. As a matter of fact, somehow I think there must have been 40 days in this month. I guess it just took that long to fit everything in.

I address you this month starting with a bit of sad news. My good friend and our fellow Tribal Member, Mr. Howard Mora Sr. has expired at the age of 80. I considered him a good friend and we shared many long visits working in his garden. Just about a month ago we began making plans for this years spring garden. It was to be my first in three years. So as we go into this spring I will certainly reminisce of the times we shared and I will miss him.

During this month we also encountered many good, fun and exciting things here in our community. Mardi Gras came upon us so quickly after the Holidays that we barely had a chance to recover. No matter though, we had a great and successful parade and festival. Each year we continue to grow and improve. Each year is a little different and will continue to be. We have, by design, set our goal on a different kind of celebration in the years to come, a celebration of Culture. It is the goal of the Tribal Council to, one day, shift from a large Mardi Gras festival, to something smaller and to reinstitute the "Tribal Fair" we most all remember.

This past month also came with a number of serious threats to our community. In brief, I will say that the Governor of the State signed a compact with the Jena Band of Choctaw agreeing to assist in placing a Tribal casino in Vinton, Louisiana. This effort quickly got completely out of control and was challenged by an overwhelming number of people, businesses and leaders, including the Chitimacha Tribal Council. The real danger and harm, should the BIA have approved it, was to empower the State of Louisiana to exercise further control over our destiny. That in a nutshell, is the last thing we want. The decision of the Jena Band of Choctaw to sign the agreement consenting to a 21.5% tax was reckless to say the least. This is the type of agreement that impacts every Tribe Thankfully, the BIA had enough foresight to avoid approving such a nationwide. document. At best though, it's "save for another day" as I am quite sure the States effort will continue and Jena Band of Choctaw will continue to search for a place to put a casino. I personally, along with the Chairmen of Tunica and Coushatta have offered to sit down with Chief Smith of Jena Band to discuss the importance of using wise judgment in her decision making process. There are many things that came up in the process that we opposed, but Jena having a casino in the vicinity of their homelands is not one of them. Unfortunately, this is far from over, it's really only just the beginning.

I leave you today with a wake up call. As we open our eyes each day we encounter many forms of jealousy; let us all remember that our best defense is the same weapon our ancestors had, unity as a people held together by our Culture. Until next time, Huya Nito

## **Resolutions for the Month of February**

#05/02	Appoints Howard G. Mora, Jr., to serve as an Election Board Member for the unexpired term of two years.
#06/02	Reappoints Pamela Thibodeaux to serve as an Election Board Member for a term of four years.
#07/02	Authorizes the Institute for Indian Development, Inc. to apply for PY 2002-2005 funds under Title VI of the Administration on Aging Act.
#08/02	Authorizes Toby to enter into a contractual agreement with Archie Thibodeaux Company, Inc., for the purpose of construction of the new roadways and drainage within the Reservation.
#09/02	Authorizes Toby to enter into a contractual agreement with R. J. Broussard General Contractors, Inc., for the purpose of construction of new utilities including 8" P.V.C. water mains, gravity sewer and electrical conduit within the Reservation.
#10/02	Authorizes Al to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Mary Parish Government.
#11/02	Authorizes Al to submit to the Secretary of the Interior all documents and materials necessary to effectuate the authorization of an election on the constitutional questions to permit enrollment by descendency and to establish four year terms of office for Council members and a procedure for the recall of Council members during the course of their term.
#12/02	Authorizes Toby to sign the amended 2002 Roads Priority List for the purpose of establishing new roadway priorities for the future of the Tribe.
#13/02	Authorizes Al to sign a purchase order with Sodak, Inc. for the purchase of 1,014 new slot machines and related components.
#14/02	Authorizes Al to sign and execute contracts with Nigro, Inc. entitled Addendums #10, #11 and #12 to Owner's Representative Agreements

TOLL FREE NUMBER	TO TRIBAL CENT	ER (1-866-936-2654

## TRIBAL COURT NEWS By Shirleen B. Fitzgerald, Tribal Courts Director

The Tribal Court welcomes aboard Ms. Carrie Saucier as our new Court Clerk. She will begin on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and we are excited to have her join our staff.

## CURRENT COURT STATISTICS: FEBRUARY:

#### **CASES: (18)**

4 Civil Actions (1 Garnishment/1 Civil Torts/1 Probate/1 Judgment Debtor) 5 Traffic (Civil Infractions) 9 Domestic Relations (8 Petitions for Disbursement of Funds/ 1 Petition for Divorce)

## MORTGAGES AND LIENS: (142)

(Assignments)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS: (01)**

(1 Acknowledgment of Paternity)

#### COURT OF APPEALS: (00)

#### TOTAL ACTIONS PROCESSED IN FEBRUARY, 2002 (161)

CASES PENDING AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2002

#### TRIAL COURT: (21)

12 CIVIL

00 CRIMINAL

06 DOMESTIC RELATIONS

01 JUVENILE

02 TRAFFIC

#### APPELLATE COURT: (00)

## COURT SESSIONS:

TRIBAL TRIAL COURT:

**FEBRUARY** 

This month's first session was conducted on February 5, 2002, at which time 4 matters were scheduled to be heard:

#### (1) DOMESTIC RELATIONS

(Hearing on Petition for Change in Custody)

#### (2) TRAFFIC

(1 Hearing on Civil Infraction/1 Hearing on Violation of Financial Agreement)

#### (1) **JUVENILE**

(Review Hearing)

This month's second session was conducted on February 26, 2002, at which time 11 matters were scheduled to be heard:

#### (1) **JUVENILE**

(Fact-Finding Hearing)

#### (7) CIVIL

(1 CV Tort Jury- Non Jury Determination Hearings/ 2 CV Tort Pre-trial Conferences/1 CV Tort Preliminary Hearing/1 CV Tort Rule to Show Cause/1 Judgment Debtor Rule/1 Hearing on Civil Complaint)

#### (3) DOMESTIC RELATIONS

(1 Hearing on Petition for Change in Custody/1 Hearing on Petition for Guardianship/1 Status Conference)

#### **NEXT REGULAR SESSION:**

Our next regular session is scheduled for March 18, 2002, with open session beginning at 10:00 a.m.

As always, if you would like any further information regarding the Tribal Courts, please feel free to contact the Court at (337) 923-7806; or come by anytime. We are located at 343 Navarro St.,

#### News from the Chitimacha Police Department Ronald Vidallia, Chief of Police

#### FEBRUARY 2002

uring the month of February, 2001 the following traffic citations were issued: two for speeding, two for running a stop sign, three for operating a vehicle without a drivers license, and one each for careless operation with an accident, careless operation, exhibition driving, and driving left of center.



The following arrests were logged for the month of February—one subject arrested for remaining where forbidden, one subject arrested for disturbing the peace intoxicated, one subject arrested for disturbing the peace intoxicated and resisting an officer, one subject arrested for theft, and one subject arrested on an outstanding warrant from Lafayette parish for failure to appear on DWI charges.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT CHANGES

**JUVENILE OFFICER**–Police Communications Officer Amy Hines has been promoted to Juvenile/Probation Officer. Officer Hines began her employment with the Chitimacha Police Department in May 1999 and has been in law enforcement since 1997. She attended the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department Law Enforcement Academy and became P.O.S.T (Peace Officer Standards and Training Council) certified in August 1998. Officer Hines recently attended a three week Juvenile Officer Academy held at the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Department Training Academy. If you have any questions or would like to meet with Amy, please give her a call at the police department–923-4964.

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**—we welcome Tanya Darden as our new Police Communications Officer. Tanya began her employment with the Chitimacha Police Department on February 25, 2002 and has been in law enforcement for the past two years, having dispatched for the Franklin Police Department and the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Department. We all welcome Tanya to the Chitimacha Police Department Team.

We say good bye to Sgt. Cory Broussard, who resigned his position on February 23, 2002. Cory will be continuing his education and seeking a new career outside of law enforcement. We wish him all the best with his future endeavors.

#### HOW NOT TO FALL FOR TELEMARKETING FRAUD

Have you ever received a phone call touting a too-good-to-be-true offer or a surefire investment? Hasn't everyone? According to the Federal Trade Commission, telemarketing fraud now costs Americans at least \$40 billion a year.

So that you know what to listen for, here are some of the most common scams peddled on the phone:

**Prize Offers:** You usually have to do something to get your free prize, such as buy products you don't really want or give your credit card number "just for verification."

*Cross border phone calls:* You get a pager, telephone answering machine, or e-mail message urging you to call a number in 809 or another unfamiliar area code. The call may claim to concern an overdue account or sick relative. In fact, the call is a fraud. You're being asked to call a pay-per-call service in the Caribbean, similar to a 900 number, with charges that could top \$25.00.

*Travel packages:* Free or low-cost vacations can end up costing you a bundle. Often the promoted travel deal requires you to pay hidden charges, for either an expensive hotel room or for the full cost of travel for a second person.

*Investments:* People lose millions of dollars to "get richquick" schemes that involve gemstones, rare coins, oil and gas leases, interactive TV licenses, or other business opportunities.

**Recovery room ploys:** If you've fallen prey to any of the above scams, you could get a call promising to get back or "recover" the money you've already lost. Of course, this comes at a price.

How can you protect yourself from falling for a telemarketing scam?

- Be skeptical of "too good to be true" telephone offers.
- Resist pressure for an immediate decision and ask for written follow-up materials that explain the offer.
- Agree to pay no more than the price of a postage stamp when notified about "winning" a
  sweepstakes. All legitimate sweepstakes must allow a "no purchase necessary" way to play the
  game and collect the prize.
- Never provide your credit card or checking account numbers to a caller from an unfamiliar company without first checking the company out with the local Better Business Bureau or State Attorney General.
- Ask to be placed on the company's "do not call" list to reduce the number of unwanted telephone solicitations you receive.

The Federal Trade Commission began enforcing the Telemarketing Sales Rule on December 31, 1995, in an effort to curb telemarketing fraud. Among the key provisions of the rule are:

- Telemarketers must disclose at the beginning of a call their identity, the nature of the call (sales) and the goods offered, and that no purchase is necessary if a prize is being offered.
- Telemarketers must disclose that cancellations and returns are not permitted if that is the case.
- No money can be collected in advance for credit repair services or recovery schemes that promise
  to return monies lost on previous scams, or for services that guarantee the extension of credit or
  a loan
- Telemarketers may only call consumers at home between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- It is illegal for telemarketers to call consumers who had previously asked to be placed on the company's "do not call" list.

Consumers who have received illegal telemarketing solicitations or who have lost money in a scam should report the problem to their state Attorney General or the National Fraud Information Center, a project of the National Consumers League, at 1-800-876-7060.

#### Chitimacha Fire Protection Chief Rick Cook

raining is an ongoing process at the fire department. During the past couple of months the following members have been through the following:

Lance Mire and Chad Sisk Haz Mat Tech Level Pam Thibodeaux Certification of FF/1

Pam Thibodeaux Cert. Haz-Mat Awareness Level Dawn Daigle Cert. Haz-Mat Awareness Level

At this time, George Graffeo is attending EMT-Basic Class and David McCoy is attending Firefighter I Class. Good Luck to the both of you.

During March 12-14, Rick Cook, Kenneth Perry, Lance Mire and Whitney Bourque will be attending Haz-Mat Chemistry Class. During March 4<sup>th</sup>, R.Cook, Captain Perry and Whitney Bourque will be attending a Haz-Mat Tech refresher at the La. State Police Hazardous Materials Training Institute.

On February 23,2002 employees and volunteers attended a 8 hour field day at the LSU Fire & Emergency Training Institute to practice Live Fire and fire ground operations training. Attending were Chad Sisk, David McCoy, Lance Mire, Marty Burgess members of the CCVFD were Curt Cormier, Dwayne Darden, Wilma Joseph and members of area departments. All of these classes are important so that everyone is trained for any emergency situation that may arise.

Promotions, Chad Sisk from Entry Level Firefighter to Firefighter 1st. Class.

During the upcoming months, the department members will be out performing fire hydrant flow testing. This is a part of annual testing to maintain the rating and fire protection.

#### Calls for the month of January:

#### Reservation

	2002		2001	
Medical		17		23
Fire	1		0	
Haz Mat	3		0	

Totals	36		47			
Mutual Aid	3		5			
Other	1		2			
Haz Mat	0		0			
Fire	2		3			
Medical		5		7		
	2002		2001			
Other Charenton	4		7			

On March 24th there will be a fund raiser held to help pay for remaining medical and funeral costs for the Salone Family. If you would like to purchase tickets, please call the fire department at 923-4326. The fund raiser consists of a plate lunch for \$4.00 each and also a raffle for \$1.00 a ticket.

Plate Lunch consists of:

Spaghetti w/ meatballs

Salad

Roll

Desert

The raffle has 4 prizes to be given away:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Hog cut & wrapped (approx. 225#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize AM/FM Stereo w/ CD Player

3rd Prize \$100.00 Cash

4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$25.00 gift certificate to Breaux's

Foodland

Lunches will be served from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm on Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>. The raffle will be drawn at 2:00 pm after finishing with the plate lunches.

#### Safety Tip:

Remember to have your heating/AC units checked before using them. Also, if you suspect carbon monoxide in your home, get out and go to a neighbors home and call for help. Our department can assist in the detection of carbon monoxide (CO) within your home or business. If you would like more information on this or any other safety hazards, call the department

#### Recreation News Billy/Jeri St.Blanc

oftball is around the corner! Registration for adults (high school – up) will be held March 11th-22<sup>nd</sup>, with games being played in April. The tentative date for the Tribal Coed Softball Tournament that was mentioned in the last newsletter has been changed to April 6th. Anyone interested in getting a team together may come by the Recreation Department for a team roster. The deadline to submit rosters is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The tournament will consist of tribal members and their extended family and employees and their immediate family. Ages for the tournament are 7th grade – adult. Teams must consist of 5 men and 5 women (more if you want subs). For a complete list of rules, call or come by the Recreation Department. T-shirts will be given to the 1st place team. We look forward to having a great time! Thanks to the Maintenance Department and Mrs. Theresa for all their hard work in getting the fields ready.

The casino gave us tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters in Lafayette on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Many reported having a great time. **Robert and Robin Compton's daughter, Erica** was selected to participate on the court. **Erica** is pictured below with a Globetrotter. Once again, thanks to the casino and the tribal council.



Jeri and Robin attended an Aerobics Step Class in Lafayette on Sunday, February 17th. They learned some new aerobic steps and have been implementing themon Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Yoga continues on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Yoga class has not been well attended. The continuation of the class strictly depends on how many participants attend throughout the month. Therefore, call the Fitness Center at 923-4975 for information on the class.

Track started on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. We'll be practicing Monday thru Thursday at 3:00 PM for the next few weeks. For our first track meet, the team will travel to Delcambre on March 16<sup>th</sup> to compete in various events in track and field. Results will be in the next newsletter. Franklin High has generously allowed us use of their track for a couple of practices.

The annual Mardi Gras Parade was held on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our department participated this year by making a float. Thanks go out to **Peggy Gaddy, Jill Louviere, Lonnie Martin, John Paul Darden, Jack Darden, Robert Compton, Gerry Martin, and Corey Compton** for helping to make our float a success.

Our third "Chitimacha Challenge" is going strong with some participants already receiving their second reward! As a reminder, the first reward comes after three complete weeks of cardio exercise. The second reward comes after the seventh week of completion. Don't forget, if you haven't signed up, you can still join. For more information, call the Health Department or Recreation.

Some of our seniors will be participating in the Senior Games 2002 in various events. They are as follows: **Heloise Lange** – washer toss, **Georgia Hurst** – washer toss and spelling bee, **Carolyn Savage** – washer toss and spelling bee, **Leroy Burgess** – golf, table tennis, and billiards, and **Howard Mora, Jr.** – golf, and **Lois Mora**. They will compete during the week of April 5th-14th in Lafayette. There will be a "Celebration of Athletes" on Friday, April 12th, which includes a meal and entertainment.

Chitimacha will have a boys and girls team in the Iddy Biddy Basketball League at the Recreation Center in Franklin. Opening games will begin on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> for boys and girls. League games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays for the girls with the boys being played on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you're interested in attending a game, you may call the Recreation Department for more information on times and dates. Our team of boys will be coached by Brad Rodriguez and the girls' team by Trey Clement. Thanks to these parents for participating and showing interest in our youth.

The Louisiana Open Golf Tournament at Le Triomphe will be held April 11th-14th. The **gifted class**, along with **Mrs. Michelle Bishop, Mrs. Tammy LaGarde**, **and Mrs. Tanya Rosamond**, has volunteered to work. If you're interested in attending, call the Recreation Department for more details.

There will be a 5K (3.1 miles) Run/Walk on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM in Morgan City. The course will begin at the United Methodist Church, go around the historic district of Morgan City, and will finish back at the church on Federal Avenue. Anyone interested in participating can come by the Fitness Center to fill out an entry form. March 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for registration. Anyone participating can record this race for the Chitimacha Challenge.

<u>Upcoming events:</u>		<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Adult Softball Regist., Ma	arch 11-22, Games in April	Golf	Hershey's Track & Field
5K Run/Walk in Morgan	City, March 23, 9:00 AM	Youth B.ball/S.ball Regis.	Swim Team
	urnament, April 6, Rosters due	Swim Team & Less. Reg	Pool-Lifeguards
March 22		Chitimacha Challenge	Water Aerobics
Bike Ride/Picnic,May 4 (		Pool	Swimming Lessons
Youth Summer Ball Regist June	stration, May 6-17 Games in	Bike Ride/Picnic	Youth Baseball/Softball
Swim Team Registration,	May 6-17, Meets in June	Tribal Luau	Ice Cream Party
Swim Lessons Registration	on, May 6-17, Lessons in June	Lifeguard Training	
	activities, sports, registrations, mally have them scheduled.	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
<u>Year Round</u>		Water Aerobics	Soccer Registration
Aerobics on Mondays &	Thursdays 8 am & 4:30 pm	Pool-Lifeguards	School CPR/First Aid Class
Tuesdays 8 a.m.		Canoe Races	Water Aerobics
Road Races/Walks		Ping Pong Tournament	Bowling Trip
<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	Skating Trip	
Basketball	Prep for Senior Games		
Chitimacha Challenge	Track & Field	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
	Chitimacha Challenge	Pass, Punt, & Kick	Cross Country
	Iddy Biddy Basketball	Cross Country	Volleyball Registration
		Soccer	CPR Audits
<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	Pool - "Last Splash"	
Track & Field	Adult Softball		
Adult Softball Regist.	Adult Coed Softball Tourn	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Chitimacha Challenge	Chitimacha Challenge		
CPR/First Aid Classes	Track	Cross Country	Basketball Registration

Volleyball

Youth Bonfire

Pool Open-"Polar Plunge"

LA Open Golf Tournament

Senior Games

"Jingle Bell Bash"

Cross Country

\*\*\*Please complete this survey so that we can see where the interest of the community stands. The more input we receive, the better we'll be able to plan our activities and programs. Please drop your survey off at the Recreation Department, send to school, mail to P. O. Box 661, or just slip it in our box at the Main Office at your earliest convenience. Thanks for participating!!!

## **Recreation Survey**

Name:

Please list names living in household across the top and check which interest each person
has under his/her name. Please feel free to check as many as you're interested in or add
something that you would like to see.

~~				1
Names				
Adult Coed Softball Tournament				
Aerobics				
Basketball				
Bike Ride/Picnic				
Bonfire/Weiner Roast				
Bowling Trip				
Canoe Races				
Chitimacha Challenge				
CPR/First Aid Classes				
Cross Country				
Golf				
Hershey's Track & Field				
Ice Cream Party				
Jingle Bell Bash				
Lifeguard Training				
Ping Pong Tournament				
Punt, Pass, & Kick				
Road Races/Walks				
Senior Games				
Skating Trip				
Soccer				
Softball/Baseball				
Swim Lessons				
Swim Team				
Track				
Tribal Luau				
Volleyball				
Water Aerobics				
Yoga				
Youth Center Activities				



#### **ENROLLMENT NEWS:**

By: Ardith Soprano, Enrollment Officer

#### **SEEKING INFORMATION!**

Report. This year's report is asking for information that we do not normally track. Therefore, we will be contacting our Tribal Members who reside within St. Mary Parish to obtain information on household income levels, number of Tribal Members within the household who are working, as well as other information as required. We are asking for your cooperation in supplying this information. The report must be submitted by the end of the month, so we will be contacting you in the near future.

Thanks in advance.

#### **ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS:**

Applications for Enrollment can be obtained by calling the Enrollment Office at (337) 923-2463 or by writing:

Chitimacha Enrollment P.O. Box 661 Charenton, LA 70523

Each application must include a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate plus documentation establishing that the applicant is a direct descendant of person(s) listed on the 1926 Annuity Roll and/or the 1959 Census Roll.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION: Please remember to notify the Enrollment Office of any changes in your address, phone number, or name. It is always a problem to keep our phone and mailing lists current. So, if you have any changes that need to be reported, please send them to the Enrollment Office at the above address.

If you have had a name change, please provide legal documentation of such along with a copy of your new Social Security Card showing your new name.

BIRTHS: It is important that we enroll all of our newborns. Sometimes we tend to forget that paperwork needs to be done in order to officially enroll our babies in the Tribe. So, if you or someone in your family is pregnant or has recently had a baby, please notify this office to begin the enrollment process. We cannot enroll your child if we do not have the required paperwork.

**<u>DEATHS:</u>** If you have recently lost a loved one, please notify the Enrollment Office. It is necessary to obtain a copy of the death certificate in order for us to adjust our Enrollment records.

CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS: By: Ardith Soprano, Cont. Ed. Coord.

#### **GUIDELINE REVISIONS:**

The Student Aid Committee has begun reviewing the Guidelines and are planning to meet on March 5<sup>th</sup> to begin the revision process. Once the revisions are complete, they will be forwarded to the Tribal Council for their review and for their ratification. Upon Council approval, you will be receiving a copy of the new guidelines.

Until then we will be continuing to operate under our current guidelines.

#### STUDENT SEARCH!!!

We are attempting to find all of our students who are anticipating graduating this year. We are looking for our High School graduates, GED graduates and college graduates. If you know of a Tribal Member who is going to be graduating this year or who has graduated since June of 2001, please contact this office. Each graduate will be recognized during Community Appreciation Day which is held each June.

Please let us know of your successes so that we can recognize you for your achievements.

#### **APPLICATIONS:**

It is almost time to send out Summer Semester applications. If you have not been on the Student Aid Program for awhile or if this is your first time applying, please notify this office as soon as possible so that we can get you into the system.

#### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

nce a student has been approved to receive funding through the Student Aid Program, that student is required to provide the following documents by the specified deadline:

Tuition receipt - within 10 days of payment Class schedule - within 10 days of the beginning of the term Book receipts - as soon as possible SAR - once per calendar year

Grade report - at the end of each term

Students failing to provide the required documents by the specified deadlines may be declared ineligible.

#### **COMMITTEE STANCE:**

The Student Aid Committee has had to deal with many sensitive issues. They have had to deal with situations whereby our students have taken funds for attending school, but did not attend classes. They have had to deal with students falsifying records. They have had students who have received refunds from the school but did not turn these refunds over to our program. In each case, the Committee has dealt fairly but firmly with these students.

The Committee is taking a firm stand on any instance where our students seem to be abusing our program. Because our program is growing so rapidly, we have had to implement cost saving measures that effect all of you. The Committee feels that students who abuse the program are "cheating" all of you. It is the Committee's intent to cut down on the program abuses that we have had so that the dollars that we do have in our program will be better used to fund our serious students.

So? WARNING! If you are not serious about getting an education, please do not tie up funds that could be used by your fellow Tribal Members who are serious!!!

## COMMUNITY PAYBACK OPPORTUNITY!

Last month I told everyone we had hours available at the Buy.Com @ LeTriomphe Golf Course, I am sorry to say that we won't be working the Golf Classic this year, however if you need hours we have other dates available.

On April 6, 2002 the Recreation Department is sponsoring a tribal baseball tournament and would like some of our scholarship students to help. If you are interested in making hours, please call this department. Hours are pending; we are waiting to see how many teams sign up.

There is a Special Quarterly Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2002 @ 2:00 P.M. in the Chitimacha School Gym. Any student wishing to make hours please call to schedule before April 15, 2002. Hours available are 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. or later.

Please make sure to schedule your hours with Ms. Debbie @ 337-923-4973 extension 3026. If she is not available please leave a message on her voice mail and she will get back to you.

Also, please remember to wear your blue T-shirt. If you have not received one please let us know so we can order you one in your size.

REMEMBER, THE BLUE SCHOLARSHIP T-SHIRTS ARE ONLY TO BE WORN WHEN PARTICIPATING IN SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS...THEY ARE NOT TO BE WORN FOR EVERYDAY USE!!

If you call to schedule hours, remember ....if you sign up you must show up!

#### **CERTIFIED MAIL:**

Because of the importance of some of our correspondence, I must send a lot of our correspondence certified. There seems to be a problem with some of you picking up your certified mail. Please know that if a certified letter is returned as "unclaimed", then you are held accountable for what ever is contained in that letter. So please pick up your mail.

### From the Desk of Toby Darden

[The following is taken from an article that was printed in the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 edition of "<u>The Seminole Tribune</u>", a Native American newspaper. I think that a lot of you will be interested].

#### By Ginny Jordan, Public Affairs Specialist

When should I retire? Generally, you should apply for retirement benefits 3 months before you want your benefits to begin.

You can apply for early retirement as early as age 62. If you were born after 1929, you need at least 10 years of work or 40 credits. You earn 4 credits a year. In 2001, you received 1 credit for every \$830 you earned. In 2002, the amount went up to \$870.

If you retire at age 62, you can earn up to \$11,280 without affecting your checks. If you earn more than \$11,280, then you will not receive all of your social security checks for the year. At age 62, you receive about 80 percent of your full retirement benefit.

Since there are no retroactive benefits for early retirement, we always recommend that you contact social security during January to see when would be the best time for you to start receiving your benefits.

The full retirement age is 65, if you were born in 1937 or earlier. If you were born in 1938, the full retirement age will be 65 and 2 months and it will gradually increase until it reaches age 67 for those born in 1960 and later. When you reach full retirement age, you can work and as much as you want and you will still get all of your social security check.

The amount you receive each month depends on how much your earning have been. Every year, 3 months before your birthday, you receive a statement from social security. This statement shows how much you will receive at age 62 and at full retirement age. If you have not received this statement, you can call social security at 1(800) 772-1213 and ask for the paper form, or we can give you an estimate of how much your benefit will be. This service is also available online at <a href="https://www.ssa.gov.">www.ssa.gov.</a>

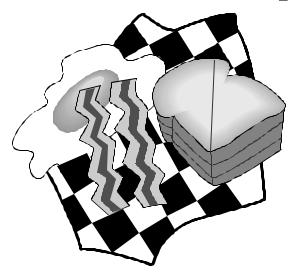
What documents will I need when I retire? You will need: social security number; birth certificate; W-2 forms or self-employment tax return for last year; military discharge papers if you were in the military service.

If you want your check to be deposited to your bank account, we will need the name of your bank and your account number.

Also, it is important to remember that your family might be eligible for benefits. If your spouse is age 62, or if you have children under 18 (or 19 and in high school), they can also receive checks when you

## WAKE UP TO DIABETES PREVENTION

## **Breakfast with the Health Department**



When: Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Where: RiverCane

**Why: For Early Detection and Prevention of Diabetes** 

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Please attend this fasting (Eat or Drink nothing after midnight)

• Free Diabetes Screening

• Free Recipes

Free Breakfast

Free Prizes for everyone who gets tested

<sup>\*</sup> Note this change in location

## **NOTICE**



The Chitimacha Tribal School will be closed for spring break beginning Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will return to school on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## CHITIMACHA TRIBAL SCHOOL NOTICE

Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking standardized tests (L.E.A.P. & I.O.W.A) beginning Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

These are very important tests.

Please see that your children come to school each day and arrive by the 7:55 bell.

It is important that your children get a good night's sleep each night and eat a good breakfast before testing. Thank you!

#### CHITIMACHA TRIBAL SCHOOL DAILY MENU SCHEDULE MARCH, 2002

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				March 1, 2002 Breakfast Oatmeal, Toast, Juice, Milk Lunch Fried Catfish, Baked Potato, Fruit, Bread, Milk
March 4, 2002 Breakfast Cereal, Toast Sticks, Juice, Milk Lunch Weiner Spaghetti, Egg Salad, Fruit, Roll, Milk	March 5, 2002 Breakfast French Toast, Juice, Milk Lunch Grilled Pork Chops, Baked Beans, Fruit, Roll, Milk	March 6, 2002  Breakfast  English Muffin,  Turkey Ham, Juice,  Milk  Lunch  Meatloaf, Creamed  Potatoes, Fruit, Roll,  Milk	March 7, 2002 Breakfast Biscuit, Sausage, Juice, Milk Lunch Red Beans, Rice, Sausage, Salad, Fruit, Cornbread, Milk	March 8, 2002 Breakfast Cinnamon Bun, Juice, Milk Lunch Shrimp Etouffee, Green Beans, Fruit, Roll, Milk
March 11, 2002 Breakfast Cereal, Hash Browns, Juice, Milk Lunch Beef Stew, Potatoes, Salad, Fruit, Roll, Milk	March 12, 2002 Breakfast Waffles, Sausage Links, Juice, Milk Lunch Chicken Nuggets, Creamed Potatoes, Fruit, Cookie, Milk	March 13, 2002 Breakfast Oatmeal, Toast, Juice, Milk Lunch Turkey Roast, Rice Dressing, Yams, Fruit, Milk	March 14, 2002 Breakfast Biscuit, Sausage, Juice, Milk Lunch Corn Dogs, Salad, Fruit, Cookie, Milk	March 15, 2002  Breakfast Doughnuts, Juice, Milk Lunch Grilled Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Fruit, Milk
March 18, 2002 Breakfast Cereal, Toast Sticks, Juice, Milk Lunch Chili, Crackers, Salad, Fruit, Milk	March 19, 2002 Breakfast Bagels, Turkey Ham, Juice, Milk Lunch Pork Roast, Rice and Gravy, Blackeyed Peas, Fruit, Roll, Milk	March 20, 2002 Breakfast Pancakes, Juice, Milk Lunch Baked Chicken, Pork and Beans, Fruit, Roll, Milk	March 21, 2002 Breakfast Biscuits, Sausage, Juice, Milk Lunch Nachos, Chili, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Corn, Fruit, Milk	March 22, 2002  Breakfast  Danish, Juice, Milk  Lunch  Fish Burger, Bun,  Lettuce, Tomato,  Fruit, Milk
March 25, 2002 Breakfast Cereal, Hash Browns, Juice, Milk Lunch Lasagna, Salad, Fruit, Milk	March 26, 2002 Breakfast Grilled Cheese, Juice, Milk Lunch Chicken Stew, Green Beans, Fruit, Roll, Milk	March 27, 2002  Breakfast  Eggs, Sliced Bread, Juice, Milk Lunch  Corn Soup with Ham, Crackers, Salad, Fruit, Milk	March 28, 2002  Breakfast  Biscuit, Sausage, Juice, Milk  Lunch  Hot Dogs, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Fruit, Chips, Milk	March 29, 2002  GOOD FRIDAY  HOLIDAY

MARCH CALENDAR

March 15<sup>th</sup> - End of Third Nine Weeks March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Report Cards Go Home March 29<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday - School Holiday

#### Human Resources Department News By: Bethany Darby & Sally Michel

Our "Employee of the Quarter" Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2002, at the Chitimacha Tribal School Gym. A dinner for all nominees and their guests, as well as all Administrators, Directors and Supervisors, started off the festivities at 12:00 noon. At 1:00 pm all Tribal Staff arrived at the Gym for the actual ceremony and announcement of the winner.

Congratulations to Lee Ann LeBlanc, the Exceptional Ed Teacher & Coordinator at the Chitimacha Tribal School, winner of the "Employee of the Quarter" for the fourth quarter, 2001. Lee Ann has been employed with the Tribe since August 7, 1995. She is the wife of Thomas LeBlanc, Sr., and is the mother of two sons, Thomas and Todd. She is a resident of Franklin.

Lee Ann's Supervisor, Tanya Rosamond, School Principal, spoke highly about Lee Ann. Elected by her peers, the following were some of the comments given: "Her smiling face and positive attitude is an important asset to the Chitimacha Tribal School. She is truly a team player, is always willing to help her co-workers, is professional, responsible, loyal, and most of all devoted to motivating students in attaining knowledge".

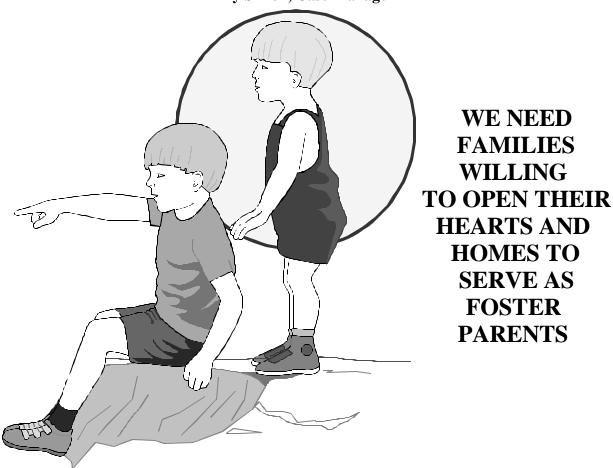


(Pictured I to r: Thomas LeBlanc, Jr., Thomas LeBlanc Sr., Todd LeBlanc, &

Alton D. LeBlanc - Tribal Chairman, Center Front: Lee Ann LeBlanc - Employee of the Quarter)



#### Human Services Department Karen Matthews, Human Services Director Amy Simon, Case Manager



(Emergency, Long and Short Term Homes are needed).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT 923-7000 OR STOP BY HUMAN SERVICES.



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Call Lacey @ 318 923-4973 to place an Ad

#### TAXES!!!

Are you paying too much for your tax returns? Come see me:

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(337) 578-1502 Cell Phone

Thank you keta (friends) and customers for your previous support!!!

Robin. Nito.

We still have tickets left for the Acadian Zoo which are good through April!!!

If you are interested in obtaining some, call 923-4975 and come by and pick them up!!!

Billy & Jeri



The Tribe now has a TOLL FREE number to the Tribal Center

(1-866-936-2654)



